THE THIRD DAY.

28th February 1912.

SUBJECTS

The Assembly met at 11 A. M. on Wednesday, the 28th February.

The consideration of the subjects was resumed.

(2). CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICE.

26. Separation of the executive and judicial functions now combined in the Revenue officers of the State.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi, B. A. & B. L. (Member, Quilon taluk) spoke of the great inconvenience and difficulties which parties were put to on account of the Revenue officers moving from place to place and holding their Magisterial Courts wherever they could. It was an open secret that, during the quarter-ending months, no Tahsildar-Magistrate would receive a complaint howsoever well-founded it might be. In his opinion, in those places where the Judicial and the Revenue work were placed under separate officers, the system had worked well, and it would be a great boon to the people if the system were extended. He pointed out that, in places where there might not be sufficient Revenue work, two taluks might be clubbed together.

Dewan.—That would require a great deal of re-arrangement.

Member.—When important reforms are carried out, such re-arrangement is necessary.

Dewan.—Do you consider that such a re-arrangement is urgently called for?

The Member replied that he thought so and suggested that the opinions of pensioned Revenue officers and District Magistrates, as also of those now in service, might be taken.

Dewan.—You are only for divesting the Tahsildar of his Magisterial powers and not the Division Peishkar?

The Member replied that he would certainly propose that there must be separate District Magistrates as well as Dewan Peishkars and he said that it was hightime that the Subordinate Magistracy should be divested of their Revenue functions. On being questioned by the Dewan, about the taluks where such relief was urgently needed, the Member urged the necessity for adopting the change in the taluks of Karunagapalli, Karthigapalli and Kottarakara. In the course of the Member's further

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SUBJECTS

representation, he pointed out the necessity for empowering the Division First Class Magistrates to deal with bail applications when the District Magistrates were away from head-quarters on circuit, and said also that, if the Tahsildars were relieved of their Devaswom functions, it would go a great way to minimise the evils now complained of.

Dewan's reply.—I shall call for statistics and see what could be done.

27. Defects in the Criminal administration of the Changanacheri taluk and remedial measures for the same.

Mr. Parameswara Kurup Eravi Kurup (Member, Changanacheri taluk) stated that, for the last two years, house-breaking, theft and robbery in broad day-light were on the increase in the taluk and that many of the offences had not been detected by the Police. The people of the place had no security of person and property on account of the inefficiency of the agency of Criminal administration. A bi-weekly market was held in the town of Changanacheri and it was a long-standing complaint that the poor who went there for selling and buying on market days were generally deprived of their earnings by the rowdies of the place. The recent riot between the Christians and the Mahomedans of the place would also bear testimony to the laxity of the Criminal administration. To remedy this state of affairs, the Member suggested that (1) the present Magistrate might be invested with First Class powers and (2) the present Police force might be strengthened.

Dewan's reply.—Action is being taken to invest the Tahsildar at Changanacheri with First Class Magisterial powers.

28. Establishment of a First Class Magistrate's Court, a Munsiff's Court and a Sub-treasury at Kayenkulam.

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Kayenkulam Trading Classes) represented that Kayenkulam was an important commercial centre and had long been notorious for its rowdies and robbers. People from the surrounding taluks of Karunagapalli, Karthigapalli and Mavelikara, resorted there daily for trade and other purposes and the hardships they suffered at the hands of the notorious characters of the place were innumerable. Many cases of robbery had to be left unpunished for want of a First Class Magistrate there, the people rather submitting to their lot than preferring complaints at such a distant place as Quilon. The Member pointed out another difficulty in that the cases under the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation had to be sent to other places for trial, the local Sub-Magistrate being the President of the T. I. C.

Dewan.—Why not put some other officer as the President? There is the Sub-Registrar.

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